

83-a Eccleston Sq: Feb 3

Dear Sir

As I am shortly to return to Rome  
one of my first <sup>acts</sup> must be to do away with  
poor Keats' grave stone, so disrespectful  
& injurious to his memory as it is & distress-  
ing to my feelings, - No doubt you are  
aware that it was written by Charles  
Brown & is one of his saddest mistakes.

It occurs to me that you as one  
of Keats' oldest friends may like to write  
with Mr. M. Milnes & myself in this  
labour of love - When this unseemly  
stone was placed Keats' memory was  
cherished by a very few friends & perhaps  
his genius known to fewer; but now his  
fame is world-wide & his memory being  
cherished

by way fitting man this stone has  
become a dowright anomaly - Being  
in such a beautiful & famous Roman  
locale, close to the Ground of Caius  
Cestus, he shoud have a tomb with some  
characteristic decoration about it &  
at least a true inscription beyond  
ridicule -

I have already applied to a  
Roman Sculptor & find that my  
views & wishes may be accomplished  
in the moderate outlay of £75, but  
in this I have the aid of Gilson - The  
fine portrait of Keats by Girometti  
to be done in white marble life size  
& the tomb to imitate a little greek  
Altar in the Vatican - I have  
undertaken to direct the work  
to plant the acanthus which I

mean to grow & combine with the  
sculptured acanthus & mulberry  
& the leg or subjoined is my idea  
of an inscription which I beg to submit  
to you, as you so clearly pointed out  
& corrected the sad errors of poor  
Brown. - I shall be glad to have  
any remark of yours -

Kent's memoir was my first  
great object in coming to England,  
this tomb is my second & a task  
now on my return to Rome I can  
so well accomplish - Mr. Miles  
began the thing by subscribing £10  
Latinum dear Sir  
Yours faithfully  
Joseph Severn

To Charles W. Dilke Esq.

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1881 From Mr. Henry Moore

Henry Moore

He was much affected at this passage,

Such a letter had none I gave to Keats supporting it to be one of yours but it proved wholly otherwise. The glance of that letter tore him to pieces. The effects were on him for many days - he did not read it - he could not but requested me to place it in his coffin together with a purse and letter unopened of his sister's, since which time ~~he has requested me not to place that letter in his coffin but only his sister's purse and letter with some~~ said - Thus he found many causes of his illness in the upturning and thwarting of his passions but I persuaded him to feel otherwise on this delicate point - In his most irritable state he sees a friendless world with every thing that his life presents particularly the kindness of his friends tending to his imminent death - "I have got an English nurse to come 2 hours every other day, so that I have quite recovered my health but my nurse after coming 3 times has been taken ill to oblige this is a little unfortunate as Keats seems to like her \*\*\*" - You see I cannot do any thing until poor Keats is asleep this morning he has waked very calm - I think he sends some - what better. He has taken half a pint of French milk, the